The true Copy of a

LETTER

SENT TO 8: octob. 1659

Mr. CARYL,

In behalf of the poor Prisoners, and Citizens of *LONDON*; Which was by Him communicated to the Members of *Parliament*, and the rest of His Auditory at *Christ-Church*, on *Thursday*, *Octob.* 6. being the Day appointed for a Solemn Thanksgiving.

With Mr. *Caryl's* Commemoration, and Exhortation, for the restoring such to liberty, who have a long time lain under the common and fatal *Calamity* of *Grates* and Prisons.

As also, That they would speedily be pleased to shew mercy to the Oppressed, and to give Relief to the Distressed; That so none may have cause to say, *Whilest Great Men are Feasting, the Poor lye a perishing.*

LONDON:
Printed for *G. TOMPSON*, MDCLIX.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
MAY 28, 1913
SUBSCRIPTION FOR
ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRACTS

A Letter ſent to Mr. Caryl, *in behalf of many hundreds of Priſoners,* &c.

SIR,

VVEre it not a Cuſtome, and very ſutable to your Function, to pray for thoſe who by the Symptomes of weakneſs are but adjudged to the Grave; we ſhould not at all break in upon your preſent and ſerious Engagement. But when we conſidér our ſelves living men, and yet by an eaſie Metaphor continually buried before God calls Us: This ſtirs us up; to add this to your Work of *Thurſdays Jubile*; that before your *Auditory* ſtretch themſelvs upon their beds of *Ivory*, you wil exhort them to remember the Afflictions, not only of the very poor &

miſerable, but of the very brave & uſeful man; *who equally die and periſh, like* Solomons *fools, under the common and fatal Calamity of Grates and Priſons. Under the weight and ſhadow of which indigeſted* Chaos, *the Rich and the Poor, the Prudent and the Prodigal, the juſt Man and the Knave, do equally ſhrink and are covered. Were you ſeriouſly converſant with thoſe Thouſands of Perſons of Quality in miſery thus confin'd; and of whom excellent uſe might be made in their ſeveral degrees and ſtations (might they enjoy their Liberty, that great Guift of God and Nature) you would need no other Monitor to mind you to exhort your Hearers, and our Maſters, to remember their often* Remonſtrances, *and* Declarations, *for our juſt* Liberties: *More we deſire not; and leſs, as* Engliſh-men, *we deſerve not.*

The Parliament have at preſent, and long ſince had, a Bill under their Commitment, for the juſt relief of Creditors and Debtors. Both which having the conveniency of Knaviſh and Juggling Practizers at Law, to aſſiſt each others corrupt Intereſt, do by a mutual Reciprocation ruine one another. Theſe oppoſite Deceivers, like Sampſon's *Foxes, fire all our good Corn, and bring ſo great a ſcandal upon our Common Defence and Bulwork the Law, that in ſhort time, ſhould revengeful, mixing with paſſionate and unskilful Reformers break in, 'tis poſſible we might exchange the ſubſtance for the ſhadow; and in ſtead of our beloved* Juno, *embrace a Cloud.* Sir, *We who ſubſcribe theſe Deſires, are Perſons not merely known in, but who have ſerved, our Courtrey; ſome in the Civil, ſome in the Military, ſome in both Governments:*

where

where we were born, and lived as Gentlemen of no inconsiderable fortunes. All we pray you then to inculcate is onely this, that we may be heard; and then, those who shall be found able, let them be constrained. Those who are put in upon Design and Knavery of their Prosecutors, be repaired in their Credits and fortunes. Those who are unable, be set at Liberty to earn their bread: For we could never find by any Law, that the Flesh and Bone of a poor and starved Prisoner, could ever pay off any Debt, but that of the Devil, Malice and Revenge.

Sir, Our Imposition on Your Dayes Labour, hath this to excuse us; 'Tis seasonable, that Thankfulness for Gods Mercies to Superiors, should be accompanied with their Mercie towards others, who are under Their Power and Command:

'Tis

'Tis just by the Laws of GOD, of Nature, of Nations, of *England*; and it is very expedient, that it be not delayed, because divers (who had set up their rest and hopes in the Parliaments passing this Bill) finding or fearing their Expectations abortive, have lately, and do daily die and perish. We will press you no further; but if it shall please God at length to afford us the sweet and blessed fruit of our hopes, and long Expectations, through your and other mens pious Endeavours of this Nature, we shall not onely praise you, but praise God for You: And thus far requite Your Devotion for us, that God will bestow the blessed influence of His Spirit upon You, as You desire the Redemption of the Just from Captivity and Oppression.

From the *Fleet*, and our other several Prisons, *Octob.* 5. 1659.

Your affectionated Friends, and humble Servants.

Mr. *Caryl* having received the fore-going *Letter*, and performed the *Duty of the Day*, was pleaſed to communicate a deep ſenſe thereof to his Honourable Auditory; Deſiring, *That as God had commanded ſtrength for them, ſo they would comand ſtrength for others; & ſpeedily to look into* Priſons, *and give relief to the* Diſtreſſed, *many being ready to periſh for want of bread, that ſo no* Mouth *might be opened, to ſay,* That whileſt they were Feaſting, others lay languiſhing. *And for ſuch as take* Priſons, *and have Eſtates, that a ſpeedy courſe might be taken about it, that their Creditors might not be defrauded by them. Alſo, that their Honours would be pleaſed to look into Courts of Juſtice, and to reform the abuſes thereof. And that God having broken the Yoke from off their Necks, that they would alſo break off the Yoke from the necks of the Oppreſſed.*

FINIS.